



ecology and environment, inc.

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US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



538716

935774

January 11, 1994

Ms. Gail Nabasny
Deputy Project officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Emergency Response Section
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: O'Hara Property Municipal Landfill
St. Charles, Illinois
TDD# T05-9311-001
PAN# EIL0817SAA

Dear Ms. Nabasny

The Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E), Technical Assistance Team (TAT) was tasked by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) under TDD# T05-9311-001 to prepare and implement a Health and Safety Plan; to compile available information; to conduct site inspection, provide verbal briefings to the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) as necessary; and to provide photodocumentation.

BACKGROUND

The O'Hara property occupies approximately three acres and is located **non responsive** (see Site Map) in St. Charles, Illinois, in Kane County. The property is bordered by Seventh Avenue Creek to the east, Fern Avenue to the south, Seventh Avenue to the west and Mrs. Sinclair's East Side Cemetery and the extension of Madison Avenue to the north. The O'Hara property is situated in a mixture of residential and public land uses with single family residences located to the north, east and south and Langum Park and the St. Charles Public Works Center located to the west. The property's specific location is described as northwest quarter of Section 35 and the northeast quarter of Section 34, Township 39 North, Range 8 East.

In 1991, according to a Preliminary Assessment Report on the site by Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the city of St. Charles was in the process of acquiring property from Joe O'Hara when concerns about the environmental conditions of the property arose. At this point, the city of St. Charles commissioned Robert Anderson and Associates (RAA) to conduct an environmental assessment of the property and to conduct a sampling and analysis of drums found at the property. After reviewing the reports from RAA, the city of St. Charles decided

not to acquire the property and advised O'Hara to notify the IEPA of the present environmental condition of the property.

According to the RAA preliminary site assessment report, the O'Hara property was utilized as a general refuse disposal area by independent waste haulers who removed waste for residents of the city of St. Charles from the 1920's through the 1940's. The report further indicated that during this time, the city of St. Charles did not provide municipal waste pickup and disposal thus many of the residents in St. Charles hired independent waste haulers to pick up and dispose of their waste; while in operation, the landfill at the O'Hara property was operated by a couple of independent waste haulers, although they were not the owners of the land.

SITE ACTIVITIES

On November 2, 1993, TAT member Jane G. Malkin met with OSC Cindy Nolan at the site for a site inspection and to gather background information. Present on-site were Mr. O'Hara's representatives, Ralph Lowe and Constantine Konstans. Four representatives of IEPA led by Peter Sorenson were also on-site to collect soil, sediments and residential well water samples.

The topography and vegetative cover of the site varies greatly. It is composed of a level, grassy uplands area and a steep, forested fill slope. The uplands is a strip of land that comprises the site which lies adjacent to Seventh Avenue and is approximately 150 feet wide. The fill slope is the portion of the site that lies between the uplands and Seventh Avenue Creek. It slopes steeply to the west and terminates in the channel of the Seventh Avenue Creek that empties into the Fox River. The creek was dry at the time of the site inspection. The fill slope is heavily wooded with trees and contains large quantities of broken glass, tin cans, cement, rusted metals, and various types of municipal waste. Numerous rusted 55 gallon drums were evident, many of which appeared crushed with solidified contents being exposed. Other indications of what may be industrial by-products such as clinkers and slag were also found in the area. It appears that waste from the fill slope is being eroded and deposited into the stream bed.

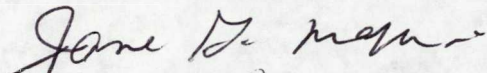
During the 1991 site assessment performed by RAA, 3 solid samples were collected from dumped materials for analysis. The results of the analysis (Attachment A) showed the presence of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), cyanide, volatile organic compounds (1,1,1 Trichloroethane, Toluene, Ethyl Benzene, Xylene, 2 Butanone, Vinyl Acetate, and Trichloroethelene), semi-volatile organic compounds (Naphthalene, and Di-N-Butylphtalate), and metals (barium, cadmium, chromium, and lead). More samples (3 soils samples, 2 drum samples, and 1 residential well water samples) were collected by IEPA during the site investigation on November 2, 1993, the results of which are not currently available. No further activities are planned for the site until

after definitive results from the sample analysis by IEPA.

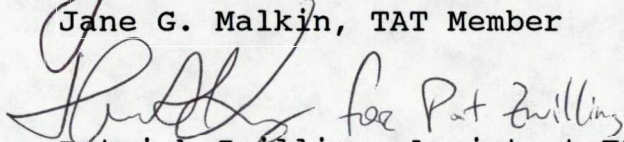
After the background information gathering, site investigation, and site documentation, the TAT and OSC left the site.

If you have any question regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,



Jane G. Malkin, TAT Member



Patrick Zwilling, Assistant TAT Leader

cc: Cindy Nolan, OSC, U.S. EPA

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Non-responsive

ATTACHMENT A

ANALYTICAL RESULTS FOR SAMPLES COLLECTED BY RAA

February 22, 1991

| | Units | Sample No. | | |
|---|-------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Sample Location | | SE on slope | Center E on slope | SE top of slope |
| Paint filter test for liquids | | Passed | Passed | Passed |
| Open cup flash point | | >200F | >200F | >200F |
| pH | | 4.9 | 6.7 | 5.4 |
| Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) | mg/l | 19 | <2 | 25 |
| Total cyanide | mg/l | 2.693 | 0.867 | <0.2 |
| Reactive Sulfide | mg/l | <0.2 | <0.2 | <0.2 |
| Solvent Scan | | | | |
| Methanol | | Not Detected | Not Detected | Not Detected |
| Ethyl Ether | | Not Detected | Not Detected | Not Detected |
| Iso Butanol | | Not Detected | Not Detected | Not Detected |
| Iso Butanol | | Not Detected | Not Detected | Not Detected |
| Ethyl Acetate | | Not Detected | Not Detected | Not Detected |
| Butyl Alcohol | | Not Detected | Not Detected | Not Detected |
| Cyclo Hexanone | | Not Detected | Not Detected | Not Detected |
| Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) <i>micrograms/liter</i> | | | | |
| 111 Trichloroethane | µg/l | 9.7 | 12 | |
| Toluene | µg/l | 8.2 | 11 | 140 |
| Ethyl Benzene | µg/l | Not Detected | 97 | 3,800 |
| Xylene | µg/l | Not Detected | 361 | 24,300 |
| 2 Butanone | µg/l | Not Detected | Not Detected | 32,000 |
| Vinyl Acetate | µg/l | Not Detected | Not Detected | 53,000 |
| Trichloroethylene | µg/l | Not Detected | Not Detected | 3,000 |
| Bases, Neutrals, Acids (BNA) | | | | |
| Aprox detection limits | µg/l | 38,000 | 42,000 | 8,000 |
| Napthalene | µg/l | Not Detected | Not Detected | 9,300 |
| Di-N-Butylphtalate | µg/l | Not Detected | Not Detected | 28,000 |
| TCLP Metals | | | | |
| Arsenic | mg/l | <0.5 | <0.5 | <0.5 |
| Barium | mg/l | 1.88 | 3.35 | 3.38 |
| Cadmium | mg/l | 1.79 | 0.43 | 0.10 |
| Chromium | mg/l | <0.05 | 0.05 | 0.12 |
| Lead | mg/l | 2.28 | <0.2 | <0.2 |
| Mercury | mg/l | <0.0005 | <0.0005 | <0.0005 |
| Selenium | mg/l | <0.2 | <0.2 | <0.2 |
| Silver | mg/l | <0.1 | <0.1 | <0.1 |

ATTACHMENT B
PHOTODOCUMENTATION

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

SITE NAME: O'Hare Property Municipal Landfill

PAGE 1 OF 6

U.S. EPA ID: None

TDD: T05-9311-001

PAN: EIL0817SAA

DATE: Nov. 2, 1993

TIME: 1200 Hours

DIRECTION OF

PHOTOGRAPH:

East

WEATHER

CONDITIONS:

Cloudy

40s

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

Jane G. Malkin

SAMPLE ID

(if applicable):

>



DESCRIPTION: Panorama of upland of the O'Hara Landfill, from north to south.

DATE: Nov. 2, 1993

TIME: 1200 Hours

DIRECTION OF

PHOTOGRAPH:

East

WEATHER

CONDITIONS:

Cloudy

40s

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

Jane G. Malkin

SAMPLE ID

(if applicable):

>



DESCRIPTION: Panoramic sweep of upland of the O'Hara Landfill, from north to south.

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

SITE NAME: O'Hare Property Municipal Landfill

PAGE 2 OF 6

U.S. EPA ID: None

TDD: T05-9311-001

PAN: EIL0817SAA

DATE: Nov. 2, 1993

TIME: 1200 Hours

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:

East

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Cloudy

40s

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
Jane G. Malkin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
>



DESCRIPTION: Panoramic sweep of upland of the O'Hare Landfill, from north to south.

DATE: Nov. 2, 1993

TIME: 1000 Hours

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Cloudy

40s

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
Jane G. Malkin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
>



DESCRIPTION: View of burried drum partially surfacing from the ground.

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

non responsive

Landfill.

DATE: Nov. 2, 1993

TIME: 1030 Hours

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Cloudy

40s

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
Jane G. Malkin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
>



DESCRIPTION: View of a drum with contents that had solidified and exposed.

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

SITE NAME: O'Hare Property Municipal Landfill

PAGE 4 OF 6

U.S. EPA ID: None

TDD: T05-9311-001

PAN: EIL0817SAA

DATE: Nov. 2, 1993

TIME: 1030 Hours

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Cloudy

40s

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
Jane G. Malkin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
>



DESCRIPTION: Tires were also found in the landfill.

DATE: Nov. 2, 1993

TIME: 1030 Hours.

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Cloudy

40s

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
Jane G. Malkin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
>



DESCRIPTION: By-products from furnace operations such as clinkers were evident such as what is shown in the picture.

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

SITE NAME: O'Hare Property Municipal Landfill

PAGE 5 OF 6

U.S. EPA ID: None

TDD: T05-9311-001

PAN: EIL0817SAA

DATE: Nov. 2, 1993

TIME: 1045 Hours

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Cloudy

40s

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
Jane G. Malkin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
>



DESCRIPTION: More of clinkers that were seen on the landfill.

DATE: Nov. 2, 1993

TIME: 1045 Hours

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
>

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Cloudy

40s

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
Jane G. Malkin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
>



DESCRIPTION: View of another drum with contents that were solidified and exposed.

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

SITE NAME: O'Hare Property Municipal Landfill

PAGE 6 OF 6

U.S. EPA ID: None

TDD: T05-9311-001

PAN: EIL0817SAA

DATE: Nov. 2, 1993

TIME: 1045 Hours

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Cloudy

40s

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
Jane G. Malkin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
>



DESCRIPTION: View of more buried drums that lay partially exposed in the landfill.

DATE: Nov. 2, 1993

TIME: 1045 Hours

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:
>

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:
Cloudy

40s

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
Jane G. Malkin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):
>



DESCRIPTION: Picture of what looked like slug also found on the landfill.